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SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

THE REGENCY.—This subject is now drawing towards a close; but, like most other pieces of the kind, it grows more and more interesting, or, at least, more and more curious. The people, in general, appear to be resolved to be merely spectators; but, at any rate, let us hope, that they will well observe, and bear in mind what passes. The scenes now exhibiting are wholly without an equal. They have the decided merit of originality; though, it must be confessed, that they are not calculated to excite surprise in the reflecting mind, seeing that they are the natural produce of the system that has existed for the last 26 years.—I shall, in this article, begin again with some observations upon the writings of the venal man of the COURIER, who, in the passage that I am about to quote, has actually verified the soundness of the opinion expressed by me, in my Register of Wednesday last, at page 229, respecting praises of the King, brought forward in support of an argument against his son, and, indeed, against the rights and liberties of the people.—I there observed, that it was base in the extreme, and that it was always so, to introduce, in the way of argument, praises of those whom no man dared attack; and, on the praises of whom no man dared put a negative.—And what answer does the venal man give to this? How does he attempt to refute me?—You shall hear:—“RESTRICTIONS ON CALUMNY.—The Weekly Register, of Wednesday, contains a passage plainly avowing how much it would contradict all the praises of the King, and hold him up to execration upon a review of his conduct, if it dared, if it was not restrained by the fear of the law. This passage is written too no doubt by the Editor of the Weekly Register, who two years ago publicly and personally at a County Meeting at Winchester, praised the King to the skies on account of his amiable qualities, whether viewed as a man or as a king. Most honest and consistent Editor of the Weekly Register!”—Now, what an answer is this!

Thus, you see, that I was either to admit his argument, founded on praises of the King; I was to admit it, expressly or tacitly; or, I was to be charged with a wish to hold the King up to public execration; and that I was only restrained from so doing by a dread of the law. This is the way, in which this venal man answers an argument. His language, and that of the whole of the hypocritical tribe, to which he belongs, is, in fact, this: “We rest our conclusions upon the assertion of the virtues of the King; we say, that this or that ought to be done, or not to be done, because the King has such and such virtues; if you contradict us, you are calumniators of the King; and, if you refuse to assent to our assertions upon which our conclusions are grounded by waving the discussion, you prove, that you would hold the King up to public execration if you dared.” This is, in fact, their language; so that there is no escaping them. They have their net so set for you, that to escape it is absolutely impossible. You must either yield to their argument; you must admit their conclusions; or, according to them, you are, either in act or wish, a calumniator of the King.—As to the words imputed to me, as having been spoken at Winchester, they are by no means a correct representation of what I then said; but, what if they were? How does it shew any inconsistency in me? It was not to the praise that I objected; but to the use that was made of it. I objected to its being brought forward in the way of argument; to its being made a ground in a controversy; because, as I said before, no one who was on the other side in the controversy, would, if he could, dare, contradict it; and, for this reason, to bring it forward, in such a way, was, I said, extremely base; an opinion, of the correctness of which, if there could have been any doubt, this venal man has now, by his own act completely confirmed.—But, the great objection that I have to the using of the King's name in this way, is, that it is part of a system of making the King a screen for his ministers. The dog-

trine of the Constitution is, that the King can do *no wrong*; and, if he is to be *blamed* for nothing, is it not base to put forward assertions as to *his good qualities* in defence of any measures that have been adopted? Is not this, in fact, making *him* responsible, instead of his ministers, as far as it is possible for a public writer to make him responsible? However, this is the course, that the whole of that venal and corrupt and hypocritical crew, who call themselves "King's friends" have pursued for many years past; and in spite of all the exposures of them, this is the course, that they will still pursue. But, the imposture has, daily, less and less success. The powers of cant daily diminish; and, when one considers how *long* the nation has been humbugg'd; when one considers what a regular system of cheaterly these venal men have pursued; when one considers what complete masters of their art these our English hypocrites are; when one considers that hypocrisy has been studied and taught by them with as much labour and pain as Newton pursued his discoveries; when one considers how numerous are the teachers and practisers of this art; when one considers all these things, one can hardly expect the cloak to be completely pulled off in a day, however resolute the hand that attempts it. But, imposture has, as I said before, less success than it had. Scarcely a day passes without stripping it of some part of its garments; and, *events, events*, those powerful co-operators of *truth*, are steadily at work to destroy this bane of the country. There are no tricks that will finally keep up the imposture. They will serve for a while; they may *defer* the complete destruction of it; but destroyed it must and will be; and we shall, at no great distance hence, hear thousands of people, who are at this moment the dupes of the venal men, expressing their surprise that they ever could have been so duped, and venting their just resentment against the cheats. They will then be just as much distinguished by their resentments as they now are by their credulity; they will flock round the venal imposture like the dupes in the play, each one heaving his blow. — This is an object of interesting observation with the philosophical mind. The man of sense will not be *disturbed* by the tricks of these venal men and the cullibility of their readers. He will coolly look on, and see the thing *work*; being quite sure, that, in the *end*, truth and jus-

tice will prevail, and that he shall see hypocrisy receive its reward. All that such a man has to do, is, to lend a helping hand in the way of exposure, whenever occasion serves, and according to the best of his means; and, without feeling any great degree of *anxiety*, wait the natural effect of time. But, he ought to *miss* no such occasion; miss no occasion of *sowing the seeds* of truth; having done that, he may be *sure* the harvest will come; and, he has only to guard against the indulgence of *impatience*. He must not stop to see the actual effects of one truth, before he inculcates another. He must, like the provident and steady cultivator, prepare for a second sowing the moment the first is in the ground. His calculations of produce ought to embrace *years*. Truths, like trees, are of various *speed* in their progress; and, it not unfrequently happens, that the slower the progress, the more durable and more valuable the result. — I never liked your *despairing* gentry; your gentry that throw up in *disgust*; which, to say nothing else of it, is sure to bring somewhat of ridicule upon those who fall into such a course of proceeding; for, the world wags on without them; and, if they cannot change the world, why, they must still take it as it is. — The way to succeed in *any thing* where success merits praise, is, to *keep steadily on* as long as it is possible; and, if the endeavours, thus made, have *truth* on their side, it is very seldom that they will fail of success. — So with respect to the imposture of these venal writers, what has been for years and years growing together is not to be destroyed in a moment. But, dropping, incessant dropping, will wear away the marble; and, if one once makes a fair opening into this hollow, rotten, vile imposture, away it goes into a million pieces. Within the last six months; since I have been in this jail, see what has been done! See what a change! See the many many things, which the people behold in their true light, and with regard to which they were before wholly in the dark, or rather, under the gro-siest deception. Only reflect for a moment; look for six months and see the progress that *truth* has made; and then despair if you can. — My attention is now called from these venal men and their hypocritical cant by a measure, which has excited more surprise in the public, I find, than it has in me; I mean, *His Royal Highness the Prince having chosen Mr. Percival and his colleagues for his ministers*.

More than *four* persons; or, four, at least, could now produce letters from me, foretelling, nearly *a month ago*, that such would be the case.—And, says the reader, how did you, shut up in a jail, come to *know* it? Why, a jail only shuts up the *body*. It leaves the mind at liberty; it leaves reason at large; and, reason told me, that in this way the struggle would end.—Upon what grounds my opinion was founded I will by-and-by state; but, we will first hear what has been said of this measure by the prints of the contending parties. This is a most curious affair altogether. It will make a great figure in the history of these times. It behoves us, therefore, to put upon record what the leading advocates of the two parties say upon the subject.—Yesterday (Monday the 4th of February) was the day, when the public were, through the press, to have the matter *broken to them*. Till Saturday the public were full in the expectation of a change of ministry; a total change. After what had passed; after the manner in which the Prince had received the proposition of Mr. Perceval; after his declining to see him; after the Protest of his Brothers; after the speeches of Mr. Sheridan; after the Answer of the Prince to the Deputation from the two Houses; after all this, and especially after the charges of Lord Grey against Lord Eldon, the public could not believe it possible, that the present men would be retained by the Prince. Alas! those who thought thus, knew little of the matter. They did not reflect at all upon the motives of action in such a case. They did not see into the nature of the Prince's situation. They knew that it required only a *word* to dismiss the ministers, and another word to choose others; but, they did not consider any further; they did not take into their consideration the *difficulties* that would attend the pronouncing of these two words, or, rather, that would instantly grow out of the pronouncing of them.—Therefore, the news, when it came out, produced universal astonishment.—The MORNING CHRONICLE, which may be regarded as speaking *officially*, the sentiments, and uttering the assertions, of the OUT party, who expected to come in, endeavours to put a good face upon the matter. It represents the Prince as having taken this unexpected step from motives of *filial affection*, and the persons kept out as having *highly approved of his conduct*.—But, we must read this most curious article, before

we make any further remarks upon it. The reader must, and will, regard it as the *Official Declaration* of the OUTS, especially of those persons, who were embodying themselves under Lords GRENVILLE and GREY, who have been aptly enough termed the *Twins* of the Political Zodiac. I beg the reader to mark well the contents of this article, which is matter for *history*; and the substance of which must have a prominent place in the historian's account of this matchless intrigue.—

"The reports made to the Prince of Wales
"of the progressive amendment in the
"King's health, and the hope that the
"Physicians give of his re-establishment.
"have made a deep impression on the breast
"of his Royal Highness, whose feelings
"of affection and reverence for his Father
"and Sovereign are necessarily combined
"with the sense of obligation which he
"owes to the public. He had thought it
"his duty, in the contemplation of having
"the affairs of the Realm committed to
"his charge for a length of time, and in a
"way which might have enabled him to
"exercise his judgment in the adminis-
"tration of the Royal Authority for the
"honour of his Majesty's Crown, and the
"best interests of the people, to lay his
"commands on Lord Grenville and Lord
"Grey, to make an arrangement for a
"Council that should possess his entire
"confidence; and it is known that these
"Noble Lords undertook the task; fully
"sensible of the irksome and arduous
"labour they had to fulfil, but feeling
"that it was only left for them to meet
"the awful and accumulated difficulties
"of the crisis, with a confident expecta-
"tion that their exertions, under the re-
"straints which had been imposed on the
"Regent, would be duly appreciated by
"the country; and at the same time with
"an earnest hope, that the prospect of a
"speedy return of his Majesty to the
"personal exercise of his Royal functions
"would make their services unnecessary.—
"It had accordingly been their uniform ad-
"vice to his Royal Highness (and in which
"he most cordially concurred) that when
"the time should come for his being called
"on to take upon himself the duties of the
"Regal Office, in the name of the King,
"he should examine the Physicians to
"satisfy his own mind, and be governed
"accordingly, in the full conviction that
"there might be more detriment to the
"public interests in a temporary change
"of system, than even in the continuance

" for a short time of an erroneous system. |
 " This examination has actually taken
 " place at Carleton House. The Physi-
 " cians have been severally and succes-
 " sively examined by the Prince's Chan-
 " cellor, in the presence of his Royal
 " Highness; and we understand, that the
 " result of that enquiry is, that though
 " they cannot speak with any greater
 " degree of certainty than at their exami-
 " nations before the two Houses, as to
 " the precise time when it may be ex-
 " pected that his Majesty could safely re-
 " turn to the exercise of his Royal func-
 " tions, whether it is probable that he
 " should be able to return at the end of
 " two months or of three months, yet they
 " all concur in expressing their confident
 " belief in his ultimate recovery.—In con-
 " sequence of this opinion, we under-
 " stand, the Prince sent a message to Lord
 " Grenville and Lord Grey, at a late hour
 " on Friday night, announcing to them
 " his determination not to make any change
 " of Ministers at this time. The message
 " was conveyed by Mr. Adam and Lord
 " Hutchinson, and was expressed in the
 " most handsome terms of approbation of
 " their conduct, and of thanks for the
 " readiness with which they had yielded
 " to his request to form an arrangement,
 " if circumstances should make it proper
 " for him to interpose his own judgment,
 " as to the fit and wise system of mea-
 " sures to be pursued on the present
 " alarming condition of our affairs; and
 " concluding with a declaration of his
 " unabated confidence in their wisdom
 " and ability, to conduct the Administra-
 " tion upon principles the most advanta-
 " geous to the Crown and People. This
 " intimation will be received with real
 " satisfaction by the friends of those
 " Noble Lords, who must all feel with
 " them that nothing but a sense of impe-
 " rious duty could have induced them to
 " enter into office in the dilemma created
 " by a temporary defect in the Royal
 " Authority. Three months, the most im-
 " portant perhaps that have ever occur-
 " red in our history, have already passed
 " under a total suspension of the functions
 " of Government—and another month
 " must necessarily have been added to
 " the delay, if the Prince had yielded
 " to the patriotic sentiment of his mind,
 " and recurred all at once to the principles
 " upon which he thinks the Administra-
 " tion would be most beneficially con-
 " ducted. So much time would have been

" required for the re-election of those who
 " must have vacated their seats, and for
 " the re-establishment of the routine of
 " office—a delay which certainly might
 " be productive of more serious calamity
 " than what can be conceived probable
 " from the perseverance in the system,
 " until the hopes held out by the phy-
 " sicians shall be realized; or until time
 " shall have destroyed these hopes. It is
 " a moment too, when public business of
 " the most urgent nature calls for instant
 " prosecution—and we need not add that
 " it is a moment when, whatever may
 " have been the rashness or the folly of
 " embarking in the career of the present
 " system, it is too late to interrupt its
 " march, or even to avert its issue—and
 " above all, we are sure the whole nation
 " will concur in respecting and applauding
 " the filial and affectionate motives of
 " reverence to his Royal Father, which
 " have influenced his Royal Highness to
 " take this step.—The noble lords, we un-
 " derstand, received the intimation in a
 " way corresponding with their high cha-
 " racter and their just sense of the public
 " interests. They had the honour of a
 " long audience of the Prince at Carleton
 " House yesterday, when he was gra-
 " ciously pleased personally to renew the
 " assurances of his perfect esteem and
 " confidence.—We have uniformly stated
 " to our readers, that if circumstances
 " should force his Royal Highness to call
 " upon the Noble Lords to take upon
 " them the administration, they would
 " not shrink from the duty, however
 " arduous—and that they would be pre-
 " pared with an arrangement that would
 " give equal satisfaction to his Royal
 " Highness, and the people of the United
 " Kingdom. All the stories in the Minis-
 " terial papers of cabals and differences
 " about the adjustment of places are totally
 " false. There was no contention what-
 " ever: indeed the minds of men must be
 " singularly composed, who, at such a
 " period, should be ready to jostle for si-
 " tuations. In fact, however, it was an
 " arrangement to be made of one united
 " compact body of men, all holding the
 " same principles, and all animated by the
 " same views; there was no contrariety of
 " sentiment whatever; and an Adminis-
 " tration of more internal strength, by the
 " ties of mutual friendship—of more pub-
 " lic influence by talents, integrity, and
 " stake in the country, never has been sub-
 " mitted to any Prince. We say so much

"from what we hear of the public functionaries; for we believe that the arrangement did not go lower, and that it was never formally presented to the Prince for his approbation.—The proceedings which remain to be pursued on the Regency Bill are few. The Resolution for putting the Great Seal to the Bill, though unwarranted by any precedent, or by any analogy in the books, will pass the two Houses this day; and the Regent may be sworn in before the Privy Council to-morrow. It will be then for Mr. Perceval and his friends to submit to his Royal Highness their further plan of proceedings; but whether they will propose to him a short prorogation, or only an adjournment for a day or two, we shall not, from obvious motives of delicacy, presume to anticipate.

"It is certain that up to four o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday ministers had made preparations for their retreat, and with some of those preparations the public will in due time be made acquainted. Whether they will still retire, notwithstanding the determination of his Royal Highness to keep them, if they think proper, we shall probably learn in the course of this day or to-morrow."

—Reader, was there ever so miserable an attempt as this to disguise a defeat? The tale is perfectly piteous. It is lamentable. One almost feels compassion for the persons who could condescend to dictate or to pen it.—Let us, however, as being a tale of woe, as being the defence of the unfortunate, hear it with patience, and so far treat it with respect as to bestow on it a few short observations, though, in reality, it stands in need of none.—We are first told, that the Twin Lords received the commands of the Prince to form a ministry for him, and that they had done so; but, that, at the same time, they *earnestly hoped*, that the King's *speedy* recovery would prevent the necessity of their coming into office.—Well, now suppose this last assertion to be true, in the face of all the earnest endeavours that have been used to inculcate the notion (and a very proper notion,) that, even in case of a recovery, the King ought not to be called upon to resume the royal authority for some time; in the face of the charges against Lord Eldon; in the face of all that we have seen, supposing it to be true, that these two Lords *earnestly hoped*, that the King might be brought out

again to business *speedily*; suppose this; still, it seems, they had got *their new ministry ready*, and had been commanded to get one ready, and, we shall see, by-and-by, how this squares with the rest of the tale.

—An examination of the Physicians, by the advice of these Lords, took place. The result was, that there was no *certainly* when the recovery would take place; it might be *two months*, or *three months*, or longer; and, *this being the case*, the Prince resolved to keep in the present ministry, which was very wise, and was highly approved of by these Lords, because it would have taken a month to settle the new ministry, and it was better to let a bad system go on uninterrupted than suspend it for a short time, and because the keeping in of the King's servants was a mark of filial affection in the Prince towards his father which all the nation must approve of.—Aye, this is a very pretty story; but, the worst of it is, it will not bear the test of dates; for, as to the result of the examination of the Physicians at Carleton House, as here stated, it is *precisely the same as that of the Examination of them by the Lords' Committee*, which took place six weeks ago. How, then, could *this examination* have produced any change in the intention of the Prince as to the forming of a ministry? The Examination before the Lords' Committee, as will be seen in the Report (See Part 1, of Vol. 18, of the Parl. Debates, p. 202) amounts to precisely the same as the examination is said to have done at Carleton House. In both, the opinions of *all* the Physicians went to *ultimate recovery*; and, as to the *time*, they are no more precise in the latter case than they were in the former.—Now, then, let it be observed, that the Resolutions relative to the plan of a Regency were not presented to the Prince till long *after* the Examination before the Lords' Committee, which took place on the 17th of December; and, of course, the Prince could not give his commands about a new ministry, until he had accepted of the Office of Regent; so that, it follows, of course, that, when he gave his commands to form a ministry for him, he had *just the same prospect before him as to his father's recovery that he had on Friday last*.

—This at once knocks up all the miserable pretence about a change of views in the Prince proceeding from the examination of the Physicians at Carleton House. The examination upon oath before the Lords' Committee represents the King *getting better, as improving, all the Phy*

cians say, and swear, that they look confidently to *ultimate recovery*, but that the *time* required for it may be longer or shorter. And, is not the same result said to have appeared at Carleton House? Is there any thing *new* that has come out of that examination? And, who, then, can be so very stupid as to believe, that the change in the Prince's intention as to his ministers has grown out of the examination at Carleton House?—These same facts, and precisely the same reasoning, apply to what is said by the Morning Chronicle with regard to the motive of "*filial affection*" in the Prince towards his father." If this motive has *now* induced him to keep in the present men, how came it to have no weight with him a fortnight or a month ago? The motive is childish. It might do well enough in common life, where a man has nothing but his family's interest to set against any supposed predilection of his father; but, in the case of the Prince it is something a great deal worse than childish to suppose that it could have any operative effect; for, if he did, as we are here told he did, look upon Lords Grenville and Grey as the fittest persons to advise him in this "*awful crisis* of the "*country*," what are *the people* to think of his setting those Lords aside, and keeping in the present men, because the putting of them out would be likely to give offence to his father; especially after he himself, has, in so solemn a manner, declared, that all the powers and prerogatives of the crown are vested there for the *benefit of the people*, and in that light *only* are sacred? Oh, no! This will never do; and, therefore, this notion of the motive of "*filial affection*," must be regarded as a mere invention for the purpose of accounting for the change in the Prince's choice in a way the least humiliating to those, whom he has, at last, rejected, and whose chagrin it is the object of the Morning Chronicle to disguise, not considering, perhaps, that, in ascribing such motives of action to the Prince, inferences very injurious to him, as regards *the people*, are clearly conveyed.—But, if we were to admit, for argument sake, that such motives have produced this change in his choice, how unaccountable does his conduct then appear, seeing that the same motives ought to have operated, if at all, at *every stage* of the proceedings? If he is *now* induced to keep in the present men because the putting of them out would be offensive to his father, would give pain to his father, why did not this

motive weigh with him *before*, and prevent him from giving his commands to the Twin Lords to form a ministry for him? The hopes and expectations of recovery were *the same* a month ago that they are now. They were *sworn* to before the commands to form a ministry could possibly have been given by the Prince. But, at any rate, what no one will attempt to deny is this: that, from first to last, *all* the Physicians, in *all* their examinations, have distinctly declared their confident opinion, that the King will **ULTIMATELY** recover. Now, this being the case, what becomes of the motive ascribed to the Prince by the Morning Chronicle? What becomes of this motive, which the Chronicle says will be applauded by the whole country? At every stage, *all* the Physicians declared, in a manner the most decided, that they relied on *ultimate recovery*; therefore, as the Prince must be well aware, that the King's feelings would be hurt, if hurt at all, by the dismissal of his servants, and that this pain would take place *whenever the recovery came*, is it not most pitiful to pretend that the change of intention has arisen from the motive of "*filial affection*?" Just as if that motive would not have restrained him from giving *his commands* to form a new ministry, if it has now restrained him from putting out the King's servants. What had *time* to do with the matter? What was the consequence whether he gave his father pain at the end of two months or at the end of six months? The nature and the quantity of the pain would have been exactly the same. What! will the Morning Chronicle accompany with *praises* of the Prince an assertion, that he would run the risk of giving, nay, that he would actually give, his father that pain at the end of a *year* which he would not give him at the end of a *month*?—No: this is too palpable. This pretence; this attempt to break the fall of the rejected party is too grossly absurd to be entertained for a moment.—With regard to the *real motives*, by which the Prince was, in all probability, actuated in the change of his intention, we will, by-and-by, offer an observation or two; but, we have not yet done with the Morning Chronicle.—The Prince, we are told, notified this change of intention to the two noble Lords, "*in the handsomest manner*." Oh, aye! I'll warrant him. He has not lived *forty eight* years in the court of George the Third without knowing how to do such a thing

handsomely. Earl GREY (then Lord Howick,) when he announced his own dismissal to the House of Commons, also spoke of the *graciousness* of the King to him personally. Aye; but the *dismissal* took place. Words cost nothing. It is from *acts* that we ought to judge.—But, we are told by this writer, that the Prince has assured the two noble Lords, that he will, if the King's illness should be of long duration, avail himself of their advice; that is to say, that he will have them for his ministers, and, of course will turn off his father's servants.—As to their *ever* being the ministers of the Prince we will inquire into the probability by-and-by; but, as to his having assured them, that he will have them, in case of a *lengthened duration* of his father's illness, the supposition, especially when taken into view along with the other statements in this article, is an outrage to common sense. What! "*filial affection* for his father" restrains him from turning out his servants at *this moment*; but, it does not restrain him from telling the world, and, of course, that same father, that he will do it, if he has a prospect of possessing the *power* of so doing for any *length of time*! And this, if the declaration were made, the father must know the moment he is restored to the use of his reason, and, perhaps, before he is so perfectly restored to it as not to be in imminent danger of a relapse. The father, that father towards whom the Prince, as we are here told, has so much of "*filial affection*," is, upon his recovery to find, what? Not that his son has turned off his servants. No: he is to be spared that pain. He is not to find that. But, according to this writer, he is to find, that his son has declared, that he would have turned out these servants if he had had the power for any length of time; and, he is to find too, that his son would have taken in those whom his father lately turned out, because *their principles* are best calculated to rescue the country from the perils with which it is surrounded; aye, he is to find, clearly recorded by inference in a declaration of his son, that it would be good for the country if he had not recovered.—Was there ever any thing more monstrous than this? Was there ever any thing more revolting to all just sense of feeling? Is it possible to place His Royal Highness in a worse light than he has here been placed by this writer? And for what? What have these pretended motives been conjured up for?

For what but to *palliate the humiliation of the party rejected*. The *real motives*, of which we will speak by-and-by, would not answer this purpose. Others, therefore, were to be discovered; and I am persuaded, the reader will agree, that, in the selection, it was almost impossible to shew less regard for *the character of the Prince*.—Now, before we come to our observations upon the *real cause* of this alteration in the Prince's intention as to a change of the ministry, let us put upon record the answer which the COURIER gives to the article above quoted from the MORNING CHRONICLE, which article it very properly stiles the *Manifesto* of those, who have had the delicious cup of place and power and profit and patronage dashed from their lips. This article of the COURIER is a *stinger*. The writer speaks in the voice of triumph; he laughs and scoffs at his opponent, and well he may. The victory is so clearly on his side. It is so complete; that if he did not exult, he would exhibit an instance of magnanimity by no means to be expected from him.—
 "We stated on Thursday that the dismissal of the present Ministers was intended as soon as the Regency Bill had received the Royal Assent.—Something like an official notification to that effect was conveyed to them, and they had made the necessary preparation in their respective offices. "The Prince had laid his commands upon Lords Grenville and Grey to make an arrangement for a Council that should possess his entire confidence, and these Noble Lords undertook the task." This has been officially stated to day. In consequence of his Royal Highness's commands an arrangement was formed. Lord Grenville was to be the Prime Minister, Earl Grey holding the same situation he did before. Lord Grenville, however, is said to have at first expressed his doubts whether so immediate a change of Ministers would be advisable. But the Foxites, always rapacious and thirsting for place, maintained a contrary opinion—they were for immediate dismissal, and Lord Grenville's doubts were removed. But the Regent, escaping on a sudden from that baneful advice that would have made him dismiss his father's Ministers, merely because they were his father's, and select others who were known not to be in possession of his father's confidence, has adopted a determination that will entitle him to the

" thanks of the whole country. He has
 " resolved not to make any change of Mi-
 " nisters at this time. This resolution was
 " formed after an examination of his Ma-
 " jesty's Physicians by his Royal High-
 " ness's Chancellor, Mr. Adam, in the
 " presence of his Royal Highness, at
 " Carlton House, on Friday last. The
 " public have seen the attempts made of
 " late to throw discredit upon the Bulletins,
 " and to insinuate that his Majesty was not
 " so well as they represented him to be.
 " His Royal Highness has ascertained the
 " contrary to be the fact, and the Physi-
 " cians all concurred in their examination
 " before him, in expressing their confident
 " belief that his Majesty's health will be
 " completely restored, and in all probabi-
 " lity at no distant period. This unani-
 " mous declaration of the Physicians con-
 " vinced his Royal Highness of the detri-
 " ment that must accrue to the public in-
 " terests from calling men to his Councils
 " who were known to possess principles so
 " diametrically opposite to those of the
 " present Ministers, and who would in all
 " likelihood adopt a total change of sys-
 " tem. Soon after the examination, there-
 " fore, of the Physicians, and at a late
 " hour on Friday night, his Royal High-
 " ness sent Mr. Adam to Lord Grenville,
 " and Lord Hutchinson to Earl Grey,
 " with a message (most unexpected, no
 " doubt, by them), announcing it to be his
 " Royal Highness's determination not to
 " make any change in the Administration.
 " His Royal Highness expressed his thanks
 " for the readiness with which they had
 " acceded to his request to arrange a new
 " Ministry, " if circumstances should make
 " it proper for him to interpose his own
 " judgment, as to the fit and wise system
 " of measures to be pursued on the pre-
 " sent alarming condition of our affairs;
 " and concluding with a declaration of
 " his unabated confidence in their wis-
 " dom and ability, to conduct the Ad-
 " ministration upon principles the most
 " advantageous to the Crown and Peo-
 " ple." This intimation of his Royal
 " Highness's determination to persevere
 " in the present system will be re-
 " ceived with real satisfaction, not as the
 " Morning Chronicle says, by the friends
 " of the Noble Lords, or the Noble Lords
 " themselves, but certainly by the whole
 " country. But it is not a little curious
 " and ludicrous to hear the supporters of
 " those personages now applaud the Prince
 " for rejecting the advice they gave, and

" for declining to proceed in that career
 " which they had marked out for him.
 " " So much time," they say, " would
 " have been required for the re-election
 " of those who must have vacated their
 " seats, and for the re-establishment of
 " the routine of office; a delay which
 " certainly might be productive of more
 " serious calamity than what can be
 " conceived probable from the persever-
 " ance in the system, until the hopes held
 " out by the physicians shall be realized;
 " or until time shall have destroyed these
 " hopes."—Is this a new discovery? Has
 " not this been obvious from the commence-
 " ment of the business? If delay would have
 " been so calamitous to the public service,
 " why did not they state it to his Royal
 " Highness? Why did not they declare
 " that the public business demanded in-
 " stant prosecution, which a change of
 " ministers must necessarily prevent?
 " Why did they place it upon record as
 " they have done, that desire of power
 " and place was more powerful in their
 " minds than the good of the public ser-
 " vice, which they now avow, now when
 " their assistance is not wanted, would
 " have been exposed to serious injury by
 " the dismissal of the present ministers?
 " These are questions which we leave for
 " them to answer in that leisure and retire-
 " ment to which, happily for the nation,
 " they are doomed to remain.—But they
 " affect to be quite pleased with the
 " Prince for his message; they are not
 " disappointed, not angry; no, not in the
 " least. Like Sir Fretful Plagiary, each
 " exclaims, " I'd have you to know, Sir,
 " I'm vastly satisfied; not at all angry,
 " quite happy and contented." The
 " Prince, who was the theme of their pa-
 " negyric when he was going to take them
 " in, is equally the theme of their pane-
 " gyric now that he is determined to keep
 " them out. They are " fit for either
 " field." They blow hot and cold at
 " once. " And above all they add " we
 " are sure the whole nation will concur
 " in respecting and applauding the filial
 " and affectionate motives of reverence
 " to his Royal Father, which have in-
 " fluenced his Royal Highness to take
 " this step." We are sure of this also,
 " and that while the country will loudly
 " and universally applaud this determina-
 " tion of his Royal Highness, it will view
 " with abhorrence and indignation the
 " conduct of those who would have had
 " him follow a different line of conduct.—

“What answer the noble personages re-
 “turned to the Prince’s Message we know
 “not.—The Morning Chronicle has
 “thrown a veil over it, only assuring us
 “briefly that they received the “intima-
 “tion in a way corresponding with their
 “high character and their just sense of
 “the public interests.” Both Lord
 “Grenville and Earl Grey had long au-
 “diences of his Royal Highness yester-
 “day.—But if the Prince is convinced of
 “the danger and injury that would arise
 “from a change of ministers, why cannot
 “the party suppose that his Majesty’s
 “ministers are equally sensible of it
 “themselves? The Regent of course
 “would have had the power to deprive
 “them of office, and to call others to his
 “Councils, but their retirement would not
 “have been their own act. This was ex-
 “plicitly stated when their dismissal was
 “determined upon and made public. *A*
 “*fortiori*, they will not think it their duty
 “to resign, now that the Regent has noti-
 “fied his sense of the danger that would
 “accrue from a change of men and mea-
 “sures.—This resolution of the Regent to
 “walk in the steps of his father has
 “brightened the prospect before us. It
 “has placed his character, both public and
 “private, in the most amiable point of
 “view. He feels that it is only by keep-
 “ing the principles of his Father steadily
 “in view that he can preserve the nation
 “in its present situation of unequalled
 “pride and glory and power, commanding
 “the world.—The Regent will be sworn
 “in before the Privy Council to-morrow,
 “and it is probable that both Houses will
 “adjourn to Monday next, when his
 “Royal Highness will go down in state,
 “and open the Session. In the *acclama-*
 “*tions that will be bestowed upon him* in his
 “procession to the House, he will find the
 “recompence and *the approbation of the*
 “*conduct he has determined to adopt.*”—In
 “the hey-day of his triumph, one must ex-
 “cuse a little bombast, and, therefore, the
 “idea of the country being now placed in a
 “situation “to command the world” may be
 “passed over. But, what he says in some
 “other parts is delicious. It must be to the
 “balked party as pleasant as hot lead
 “poured down their backs. Yes, yes.
 “The Prince has age and *experience*;
 “the Prince is “capable of forming a right
 “judgment; and the Prince, having had
 “time and opportunity to examine into the
 “matter, finds, that to pursue the system of
 “his revered father, to tread in his step,

and, of course, to have *the same ministers*, is
 “the only way to insure the safety and hap-
 “piness of the nation! This is excellent.
 “This is right on to the point; and it is
 “what I defy the Morning Chronicle to
 “controvert. We shall now hear from this
 “venal man of the COURIER no more in-
 “sinuations against the Prince of Wales;
 “no more threats to revive “*unpleasant*
 “discussions as to his pecuniary affairs;”
 “no more assertions of his “pecuniary em-
 “barrassments having been the greatest
 “cause of his *unpopularity*.” We shall
 “now hear nothing more of this sort from
 “him. Nor do I think, that we shall
 “again hear him calling the other Princes
 “GREAT BABIES.” He will find all
 “of a sudden, that they have acted a very
 “wise part, especially if it be true, as we
 “are told in the news-papers, that some of
 “them were the bearers of the glad tidings
 “to Lord Eldon and Mr. Perceval. He
 “will now discover, that they are fit for
 “something more than “dancing at a
 “Duchess’s ball;” a discovery, which
 “the unfortunate OUTS have, with lips half
 “bitten through, already made.—The
 “MORNING POST, too, lifts its hoof at the
 “fallen party, now that it sees them down.
 “It has been pricking up its long ears for
 “some days past; it has been braying out
 “some very significant compliments to the
 “Prince; and, now back goes its hoof in
 “a jerk at those very men, whom, only ten
 “days ago, it denominated “*highly respect-*
 “*able individuals*,” as distinguished from
 “*Sir Francis Burdett and his crew.*”——
 “It is worth while to hear a little of what
 “this man now says, being, however, very
 “cautious how we believe him.—The
 “*Manifesto*, of which he speaks, is the article
 “above quoted from the Morning Chronicle.
 “—“The Manifesto to which we allude
 “(for it clearly is a Manifesto, authorised
 “by a part, at least, of the Opposition),
 “gives us to understand, in the first place,
 “that the determination to retain the pre-
 “sent Ministers was grounded upon the
 “opinion given by the Physicians, upon
 “their examination by the Prince’s Chan-
 “cellor, of his Majesty’s ultimate com-
 “plete recovery. Now, we undertake to
 “assert, without fear of contradiction,
 “that this examination took place *very*
 “*early in the last week*; and we are dis-
 “tinctly informed by the Organ of Op-
 “position, that it was not until Friday
 “night that the resolution was taken, to
 “make no change in the Administra-
 “tion. We therefore believe it to be a

"misrepresentation as important as it
 "is complete, to say that the resolution
 "followed the report of the Physi-
 "cians;—important, as well because it
 "is calculated to support the assertion
 "that there were *no difficulties* in the ar-
 "rangement of the projected Government,
 "as because it implies that it was at the
 "advice of the Noble Lords who, as we
 "were given to understand, were com-
 "manded to prepare the new lists, that
 "the change of Ministry was rendered
 "dependent upon the state of his Majes-
 "ty's health. We assert, without any
 "fear of contradiction, that at the very
 "moment in which the determination
 "was communicated to the Noble Lords,
 "they were engaged in *discussing their*
 "*projects of a new Administration*; the
 "communication, (if we are not more
 "grossly misinformed than, as we suspect,
 "the Morning Chronicle will tell us that
 "we are) so far from being the result of
 "any advice or opinion submitted to the
 "Royal Personage by the Noble Lords,
 "was a complete surprise upon the whole
 "party, who rather expected a message
 "to *hasten their deliberations*, than one
 "which put a stop to them altogether.
 "—These facts would perhaps be of
 "little importance, if they did not entire-
 "ly overturn a delusion, which it is,
 "evidently enough, the purpose of the
 "Manifesto to encourage, namely, that
 "every preparation for forming a new
 "Administration originated with the
 "Great Person himself; that it was with
 "exceeding reluctance that the Noblemen
 "and Gentlemen who were intended to
 "compose it, consented to take upon them-
 "selves so heavy a *burden*; and that to be
 "relieved from it was to them a *cause of*
 "*unspeakable joy*! This representation is
 "equally untrue and mischievous; that
 "it is untrue, the language of every per-
 "son concerned, throughout the whole
 "of Saturday and Sunday, before, in short,
 "the Manifesto was issued to convince
 "them that they were the *luckiest of hu-*
 "*man beings*, will sufficiently testify; its
 "mischievous appears in the disloyal and
 "dishonest attempt to *fix upon his Royal*
 "*Highness the desire of changing the Govern-*
 "*ment*, and upon those whose wishes were
 "to be gratified by the change, nothing but
 "an *humble obedience to his Royal Com-*
 "*mand*!"—This is all fair. To an at-
 "tempt to make the public believe, that
 "the OUTS did *not wish* to come into power,
 "it is impossible to affix any epithet too

contemptuous. What! after all that we
 have seen; after what has been before our
 eyes for the last three years; after the
 language of the men themselves and of
 their partizans for the last three months
 only; nay but the last week, are we to be
 told, that they were solicitous to *avoid*
 place and power? This really is too im-
 pudent. If, however, this be their talk,
 they stand a good chance of being grati-
 fied to their heart's content; for, unless
 all my reasoning upon the subject be
 grossly erroneous, never will any set of
 men, with Lords GRENVILLE and GREY, or
 either of them at their head, be ministers
 again in this country. Their exclusion
 from political power appears to me to be
 irrevocably passed; and for my thinking
 so I will now state the reasons.—From
 what has been said above, there cannot, I
 think, remain, in the mind of any man of
 common sense, the smallest doubt, that the
 motives which have been alledged by the
 Morning Chronicle for the Prince's having
 changed his intention, have no foundation
 in truth.—The real motives, in my opi-
 nion, were very different; and, it will be
 found, I think, upon examination, that,
 placed as the Prince was *at last*, it was im-
 possible for him to do otherwise than he
 has done, unless he had resolved upon a
 total, a radical, change of system, at once,
 a prominent feature in which system would
 have been that reform of the Commons'
 House of Parliament, which has so long
 been the chief object with so large a part
 of the people.—The Morning Chronicle
 tells us, that the two Lords had formed a
 famously good ministry: "*an Administra-*
 "*tion of more internal strength, by the ties of*
 "*mutual friendship, of more public influence,*
 "*by talents, integrity, and stake in the coun-*
 "*try*, than ever has been submitted to any
 "Prince; one united, compact body of
 "men, all holding the same principles, and
 "all animated by the same views."—
 This is a very fine description. Here are
friendship, INFLUENCE, talents, integrity,
 and *STAKE*, (that is to say *money*;) and
principles; but *what principles* is not stated;
 nor is there a word said about what this
 fine ministry would have done for the *peo-*
 "*ple*.—Whether there had been any *dif-*
 "*ferences* as to who should compose the mi-
 nistry is more than I can say; but, if I
 may judge from the past, a ministry elect-
 ed by Lords Grenville and Grey would
 have excluded almost the whole of those,
 to whom the Prince was most attached;
 and, if he was thus to be treated, it is very

clear, that it was, as far as personal feeling went, better for him to keep the present men, who, I believe, had always treated *him and his particular friends* much better than they were treated by the *late ministry*.

—I shall be told, that these are considerations that ought not to have much weight in so momentous a case. Very true. They ought not; but, it is quite impossible to divest ourselves of all feeling; and, though I am disposed not to ascribe any very great weight to these considerations, still they must have *some* weight given to them.

—There were two sets of ministers talked of. One, with Lord HOLLAND at its head, and the other with Lords Grenville and Grey, for these two are always put together. From the former, the people would have expected *something*: from the latter, *nothing*. It was supposed, with what correctness I know not, that his Royal Highness, the Prince, leant towards the former; but, it was, at the same time, very evident, especially after the Restrictions were carried, that he could not, without a dissolution of Parliament, *go on* with a ministry so composed.—It is likely that the bent of his mind was towards Lord HOLLAND, and men of that description; and, at any rate, it must be supposed, when we look back to 1806, that he would not, if he had had his free choice, have delivered up himself and his particular friends into the hands of Lords Grenville and Grey.—The probabilities are, therefore, that he had not, from the beginning, any liking to a ministry of their forming; and, if he did give his commands to them to form a ministry, the progress might more and more tend to convince him that he should do better with the present men than with them.

—This, however, I give to the reader as mere conjecture; but, I think, it is evident, that, situated as he was at last, he could not have *gone on* with a ministry of their making up; that he could not, by any means, in the present state of the parliament, have carried the government on for a week with such a ministry.—If the Regency had been given to him *without restrictions* (which restrictions, be it observed, Lord Grenville *supported*;) such a ministry might have gone on as well, or, rather as ill, as the ministry of 1806, composed of the same persons. But, when the power of making peers; the power of granting pensions; the power of granting office for life or in reversion; when the controul over the Crown Lands;

when the immense patronage of the Household; when the privy purse; when all these were taken from him, how was he to go on with a *dead majority* against him in both Houses of Parliament? It is nonsense to talk about his choice or his wishes or his affections or his commands to form a ministry; I ask, how he was to go on? There was only *one* way of even attempting to go on under such circumstances, and that was, first proposing a *reform of parliament*, and then, whether that proposition were rejected or not, *dissolving* the parliament, or in the words of the King's speech of 1807, "*appealing to the sense of the people*." This was the *only* course left to be pursued. This course was not to be expected from Lords Grenville and Grey. To follow it he must have chosen other men, if such men had been to be found. His only choice lay, therefore, between *the present system* whole and unmixed, and untouched, and *parliamentary reform*. There was no middle course for him to pursue. In short, to represent the things by persons, his choice lay between Mr. PERCEVAL and SIR FRANCIS BURDETT, and I am sure the OUTS, who so manfully "*rallied round*" the former against the latter, cannot, when they have taken time to reflect (and time enough they will have for reflection) do otherwise than commend the choice that has been made. When Mr. MADOX made his motion, his ever-memorable motion about the seat-selling, the OUTS "*rallied round*" Mr. Perceval; they defended, they justified him; they, therefore, ought to be amongst the last men in this whole world to find fault of the present choice of his Royal Highness; and, as to *the people*, if they find one *free* man in all England to join them in finding fault of Mr. Perceval's being preferred to *them*, I will acknowledge that I know nothing at all of the disposition of my countrymen.—Now, as to their *future* prospects; I mean the future prospects of those who would have composed a ministry with Lords Grenville and Grey at the head of it.—We are told by the Morning Chronicle, that the Prince has intimated to them, that, when he is at liberty to pursue his own plans, he will avail himself of their talents.—We have before remarked upon the injury that this assertion (if believed) is calculated to do to the character of the Prince: it only remains for us to remark upon the folly of indulging any hope in the prospect that it holds out.—

If the King recover speedily, there is, at once, an end to the hopes of those who entertain this expectation of future favour. He will either recover speedily, or he will not; if the latter, then, let it be observed, that Mr. Perceval is still Minister, that it is *he* who has all the current patronage, and, which is a great deal more, he is *sure* to be King's Minister again; he is, in fact, Minister in *reversion*, if the King recover during Mr. Perceval's life; he has, from this peculiarity of circumstances, a footing far more solid than any Minister ever had before.—This will give him great weight amongst those with whom he has to do, and whose support it is most material for him to have. Being now the Prince's adviser, he will be the person to be consulted as to the granting of *pensions*, *places for life*, and the like; and, then, the restrictions will, in fact, in this respect, be of no consequence; for, whatever the Prince may be advised to grant, will, of course, be *confirmed*, in case of the resumption of the royal authority by the King. Are the OUTS not aware of all this? Do they not perceive, how much *easier* and *pleasanter* the Prince will get on with Mr. Perceval, than he could have got on with them?—There is now nothing that His Royal Highness may wish to do for any one attached to his person (so that the party to be served meddle not with *politics*) which will not readily and cheerfully be done. Nay, I should not wonder much if Mr. TIERNEY and another or two were admitted into the buildings at Whitehall; but, as for the ministry makers, the men of "*stake*," never will they again put their noses into those buildings.—But, "at the *end of the year* the restrictions *expire*." Yes; so they do; but, a year is a *long while*; many things happen in a year; and, if all other matters hold together till next February, Mr. Perceval must be a very lame man indeed if he be not much more powerful than he now is, and if the Prince have not much *stronger* reasons for keeping him in than he had for choosing him.—In short, with the *Grenvillites* and the *Greyites* the game is up; completely up. They thought, and I told them they were deceived, that they could go on without an *appeal to the people*. They have *already* found themselves deceived. Hitherto in England there have been a *court party* and a *country party*; the *King's party* and the *people's party*; but, here we had a party, who would acknowledge neither. A party composed of

men of "*stake*." Well, let them keep their "*stake*;" but, let them not hope, that the people care a straw about their *stake*.—One comfort will be, that all their apprehensions will now be removed about the King being brought out again before he be perfectly recovered. We shall now hear no expressions of alarm upon this score. All parties will now be perfectly agreed as to this important point. The Prince's choice, like the Knight Errant's balsam, heals all wounds, past, present, and to come.—Indeed, the thing is so complete, the discomfiture of the men of *stake* is so decisive, that I am thoroughly persuaded they never can "*rally*" again. I made a promise almost as strong as an oath, some years ago, that I never would go into the gallery of the House of Commons, again; but, if I were not, like the Bank, under the influence of a *restraining law*, I certainly should be tempted to break my promise. I should like, of all things in the world, to see some men now with my own eyes, and hear them with my own ears.—The fall of the men of *stake* has proceeded solely from their contempt of the people generally, and particularly from the contumely, with which they have treated the applications for *reform*; and, now, all those who have any sense must perceive, that this is the *only ground left* whereon to stand in opposition to any ministry carrying on the government upon the present system. There used to be a talk about the Prince, and what the Prince would do, when he came to the throne, which, by the bye, was very unconstitutional talk; but, now they see what he will do, what he can do, and I have clearly shown, I think, that, unless he had had men ready to propose and stand firmly to a proposition for parliamentary reform, the Prince could do nothing but what he has done, unless he had refused the Regency altogether.—I do not lump together the whole of those persons who composed the *late ministry*; nor do I wish, by any means, to impute any base motives to Lord Grenville or Lord Grey; but, in the latter, there is so much disregard of the people, that he never can be a popular minister, and haughtiness towards the people is, too, the more resented on account of his former professions. Lord Grenville is a sensible man, and he has nothing of the mean intriguer about him. But, there is that in his whole family, in all their connections and situations, which forbid the people to look towards them for a reform of parliament, without which no

other measure will ever again make any minister popular, be he who or what he may. Indeed (and it cannot be too often repeated) this is now the *only* ground of opposition to any ministry; and, these who will not join their voices in culling for this great measure, will excite neither interest nor attention. What is the use of cavilling and carping at this or that little thing? What is the use of a contest, which all the world knows will lead to no practical effect, and which has, indeed, no practical effect in view? Even great things, such as the fate of Sir John Moore's army and the affair of Walcheren, excite no interest, because the people do not see, that they would be bettered by any change of councils that the struggle may produce. It would be just the same in case of a failure in Portugal. Some *borough*, under the controul of him who found an interest in getting it, might send up a petition; but, in this whole kingdom, not a *free* man would move pen or tongue to put out the ministry upon any such ground. But, once let the question of *reform* be espoused by any considerable number of the members of parliament; once let that question be agitated in a way that would show the parties to be *in earnest*, and you would see that the people of England are still alive to the interests and honour of their country. It is quite useless for the men of "*stake*" to fold up their arms and be sulky. There they may remain folded up till they grow to stone. If they care nothing for the people, the people care as little for them. The people have a *stake* as well as they; and, if this be denied, why, then, those who possess no stake, have no stake to lose.

WM. COBBETT.

*State Prison, Newgate, Tuesday,
February 5, 1811.*

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

SPAIN AND FRANCE.—*State of the French Armies in Spain; and Account of their proceedings.*—Paris, 19 Jan. 1811.
(Concluded from p. 288.)

The Duke of Tarento, on his march from Barcelona in the direction of Tarragona, intercepted a very considerable convoy which the insurgents were conveying to the latter place.—On the 14th December he effected his junction with the army of Arragon, at Mora on the Ebro.

V.

ARMY OF ARRAGON.—General Suchet, commander of the army of Arragon, found it impossible, from the month of September, to commence the siege of Tortosa. He was continually prevented by the water in the Ebro being too low to admit of the conveyance of his battering ordnance. The Duke of Tarento having moved to Mora to support the siege, General Suchet invested the place on the 13th December.—On the 17th the garrison made a sally, which was repulsed by the 116th and 117th regiments. Our sharp-shooters penetrated to the foot of the walls. The entrenched camp and all the redoubts were carried.—On the 1st of January, after thirteen days of open trenches, Tortosa and its forts surrendered at discretion. The garrison, consisting of 9,500 men, including 400 officers, 12 stand of colours, 192 pieces of artillery, 2 millions of cartridges, 10,000 muskets, 200,000 weight of powder, 500,000 weight of lead, and a great quantity of provisions, have fallen into our hands. The important capture of Tortosa renders us completely masters of the course of the Ebro, and entirely cuts off Valencia from Catalonia. The Duke of Tarento immediately marched upon Tarragona, the only strong place remaining to the insurgents in all that part of Spain. General Suchet writes, that the inhabitants of Arragon evince the best disposition; and that this province, after being one of the most agitated, is now one of the most tranquil in Spain; that the revolutionary furor has entirely ceased, and given place, as usual, to sentiments diametrically opposite. The inhabitants of the south, of the centre, and the north of Spain, are equally tired out as those of Arragon, and feel the same hatred towards those who have sacrificed their country, and the same desire for the restoration of tranquillity. English influence is destroyed, and all the symptoms indicate that the fever is at an end. The inhabitants loudly call for being united to the Empire.

EXTRACT

From the Moniteur, relating to the English Prisoners, wrecked in the ship Elizabeth in the road of Dunkirk.—Paris, Jan. 19, 1811.

On the 28th of December the English ship Elizabeth was wrecked in the road of Dunkirk; notwithstanding the humanity of the inhabitants, and every possible as-

sistance which was afforded by the marine, but 22 persons were saved. An English journal (the Alfred) of the 4th of the present month, in making mention of the event, has added what follows:—"When it was known in Dunkirk that the Elizabeth had been wrecked, the English prisoners, a very considerable number of whom are confined in that city, asked permission to assist their countrymen; we are sorry to say that the request was refused, and even such of the inhabitants as were not devoid of humanity were prevented from lending any aid to the sufferers."—However accustomed we may be to the calumnies of the English journals, this, which not only censures the Administration for a want of zeal, but moreover reflects on the courage of the inhabitants of a city conspicuous for the integrity of its seafaring people, naturally excites as much surprise as indignation. It is sufficient, in order to refute this falsehood, to publish the following letter, addressed by the Captain of the Elizabeth to his Excellency the Minister of the Marine and Colonies;—"Dunkirk, Jan. 3.—

"Monseigneur,—The merchant vessel the Elizabeth, of which I had the command, was of 650 tons burthen, and sailed from London the 26th of October, 1810. Though not belonging to the East India Company, she was bound for Madras and Bengal.—I anchored at Cork, in Ireland, from which place we sailed on the 19th of December. After having sustained much damage from a gale of wind, we got on ground amidst the sand-banks in the road of Dunkirk, and our vessel went to pieces in view of that city on the 28th of last December. There were on board 380 persons, of whom 30 were passengers, 250 lascars (Indian sailors), and 100 seamen; out of this number there were but 22 saved including myself. We were made prisoners of war.—[The following is a list of our names:]—Although having suffered shipwreck, and having been saved from its perils by our own unaided efforts, (it not being possible for the praise-worthy efforts of the marine to afford us any assistance from the shore), we are satisfied to consider ourselves as prisoners of war, but our unhappy situation, and the circumstances which have led to it, induce a hope that your excellency will permit of our being exchanged for an equal number of French prisoners at the disposal of the British

Government.—Deeply impressed with gratitude towards the brave inhabitants of Dunkirk and the members of its naval administration, who most generously supplied us with every comfort after our sufferings, we particularly request that in case of compliance, we may be exchanged for seamen of that place, if there be any such in England, I should consider myself eminently fortunate in being the instrument of their liberation. It is the only way by which I may be able to testify my warm gratitude to the people of Dunkirk, without whose prompt and generous assistance we should all have perished.—Your Excellency will permit me to submit to your notice such means as appear to me best calculated to forward the exchange. Standing rather high in the estimation of the admiralty, I have no doubt of success in a proceeding dictated by sentiments of gratitude. I require, in the first place, permission to proceed to London, in order to negotiate the exchange. I pledge my word of honour for my return, and offer moreover a personal or pecuniary security.—Secondly, to bring to Dunkirk or any other place your Excellency may please to appoint twenty-two French prisoners of war, born at Dunkirk, and of equal rank with such of my crew as have been saved.—Thirdly, to conduct these latter to England. A detail of the generous assistance afforded us by the people of Dunkirk will, I have no doubt, make a due impression on the Admiralty; and on that I ground my sanguine hopes of the success of my undertaking.

(Signed) "R. W. EASTWICK."

EXTRACT

*From the MONITEUR of the 14th Jan. 1811.
Commenting on the Statements in England, relative to the War in Portugal.*

"We read the following article in The Times, which we lay before our readers, in order that they may see the light in which the affairs of Spain and Portugal are viewed by the two parties in England. But we premise, however, that the statement in question abounds in false assertions and misrepresentations."

[The Moniteur then inserts the Letter in The Times of December 27, signed "A Veteran," upon which it makes the subjoined comments.]

Upon the passage in the Letter, stating that "Massena passed the Mondego with 60,000 men."

The *Moniteur* says:

"We shall not make a single observation upon the number of combatants on either side. In general, the English are ill-informed."

Letter in The Times.—"His (Massena's) loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners, was computed at 7 or 8,000 men."

The *Moniteur*.—"This is false, in the proportion of four-fifths."

Letter in The Times.—"Had England learned that her General had made a desert of Portugal, as he was authorised to do by the rigorous laws of war, he would not have escaped the bitterest reproaches; and that conduct towards allies would have been treated as barbarous cruelty. He would have been told that he was nothing but an imitator of the Vandalism of the French."

The *Moniteur*.—"It is amusing to compare the Proclamation of Lord Wellington, and the language which the English held four months ago, with that which they use today. Four months ago, Lord Wellington burnt all, ravaged all, in order to create a desert, and to prevent the enemy from advancing. In reality he has committed dreadful ravages, without example in the history of Europe, which are a fresh proof of the unfeeling and ferocious character that belongs to the English nation. The English now seeing that, in spite of the obstacles which are opposed to it, the French army has traversed eighty leagues of territory in a few days, and has since lived in abundance for four months, they cannot conceive how this can possibly be, and wish it to be believed, that Lord Wellington has protected the inhabitants, and husbanded the country."

Letter in the Times.—"The ravages which took place, and which the *Moniteur* had the effrontery to describe as greater than those of the French —"

The *Moniteur*.—"This is very well for the English; but will not suit the inhabitants of the Continent, who have every where had experience of the French army."

Letter in the Times.—"These ravages were carried into effect by the inhabitants alone."

The *Moniteur*.—"If the inhabitants themselves had destroyed, they would have destroyed effectually; especially, they would not have left magazines of grain, wine, rice, which have placed the French

army in a state of the greatest abundance. On the contrary, the inhabitants have concealed all they could, as is natural; and the magazines which have been withdrawn from the English, have fallen into the hands of the French."

Letter in the Times.—"If Lord Wellington had had 40,000 British with him at Talavera, and the Spaniards had been willing to have executed his orders, he would have driven the French to the left bank of the Ebro."

The *Moniteur*.—"If Lord Wellington had had 40,000 men at Talavera, in the ignorance in which he was of the real state of affairs, he would have lost his 40,000 men; for he would have marched upon Madrid, and the 2d, 6th, and 5th corps of the French army would have cut him off from the Tagus. This boast of the English is inconceivable. Whilst they have the advantage of being masters of the sea—of having armies so numerous and insurgents under their orders—they are reduced to remain entrenched and perched upon heights, and before their vessels. This is very different from managing a war of marches and manœuvres: for this the English are in want of an army capable of manœuvring, and an able General. They have neither one nor the other."

PORTUGAL.—*Extracts of Dispatches from Lord Viscount Talavera, dated Cartaxo, 5th Jan. 1811, published by the Government in London, 29th Jan. 1811.*

My Lord.—The reinforcements to the enemy's army in this country, which I informed your Lordship, in my dispatch of the 29th December, were on their march in the valley of the Mondego, arrived upon the Alva at Murcella on the 24th, which river they crossed by a ford on the following day, and continued their march to join the army.—Colonel Wilson, who has retired from Espinhal and crossed the Mondego upon hearing of the advance of these troops, lest he should be involved in an unequal contest in front and rear at the same time, repassed the Mondego on the 25th, and annoyed the enemy's rear on his march of the 25th and 26th from the Alva towards Espinhal. He took some prisoners, and cut off some of their small detachments, which fell into the hands of the Ordenanza.—The division which had marched to Pinhel, and the advanced guard of which had been at Trancoso when I last addressed your Lordship, was still at

Pinhel on the 26th December, when I last heard from General Silveira, whose headquarters were at Torrinha.—I have letters from Cadiz of the 23d and 29th December, stating that Marshal Soult had marched from the army engaged in the operations against that place with 4,000 or 5,000 men, on the 20th and 21st of Dec.—Generals Mendizabal and Ballasteros are still at Llerena and the neighbourhood of Monasterio, and Girard's division of Mortier's corps at Guadalcanal.—No material alteration has been made in the position of the enemy's army since I addressed your Lordship last. The detachment which marched to Castello Branco returned immediately, and was sent either for the purpose of escorting a messenger or to obtain intelligence. I have the honour to be, &c.

Cartaxo, Jan. 12.

My Lord—Since I addressed your Lordship on the 5th instant, I have learnt that the detachment of the enemy's troops, which joined the army in the end of last month, consisted of 11 battalions of the 9th corps, and of a body of troops which, under the command of General Gardanne, had before attempted to penetrate through Beira Baza. The whole are stated to be 8,000 men, by some of the Officers who saw them, but I should think they must be more.—The other division of the 9th corps had not passed the frontier when I last received accounts of them; but I learn from an intercepted letter from General Drouet to General Claparede, that this division has been ordered to take a position at Guarda. Their advanced guard broke up from the neighbourhood of Trancoso on the night of the 3d instant.—There has been no alteration in the position of the enemy's army since I last addressed you, excepting that General Drouet's head-quarters have been fixed at Leyria with the troops which joined with him.—The enemy continue to construct boats in the Zezere, and have shewn much jealousy of the measures adopted by our troops on the left of the Tagus, to command by their fire the communication between the Zezere and the Tagus.—I have now to inform you, that Marshal Mortier arrived at Ronquillo, with a division of the

corps under his command, on the 3d instant. He has since continued to advance into Estramadura, having formed a junction with the division which had been at Guadalcanal, under the command of General Girard; and I am concerned to add, that I have just learnt that he obtained possession of Merida, and of the bridge over the Guadiana at that place, on the evening of the 8th inst., the Spanish troops having retired.—They have left General Ballasteros' division on their left flank, between Xeres de los Cavalleros and Olivenza, with his communication open with Badajoz; and it is reported that Mortier's corps is followed by other troops. I have the honour to be, &c.

MEXICO.—Civil War.—Letter from the Viceroy to the Governor in Spain.—Nov. 7, 1810.

Excellent Sir—At nine o'clock this morning I attacked the army of the insurgents in a position so advantageous, that without a knowledge of their want of military skill it would have been temerity to make the attack. In little more than an hour they were routed with the loss of all their artillery (among which were the two pieces of cannon which our troops left in the Monte de les Cruces), all their ammunition, consisting of 120 chests of powder, their train forming 11 waggons, a quantity of musketry, ammunition, a number of dead, and some prisoners. The loss on our part was only one killed and two wounded. I shall transmit the details to your Excellency as soon as possible. Had not the ground presented obstacles to the passage of two columns of cavalry destined to cut off the retreat of the enemy, my troops would have taken the leaders, Hidalgo, Allande, Aldama, and Abaslo, who escaped with much difficulty by the Sierra, with very few of their followers. I encamped on the ground on which I fought the battle, near the town of St. Geronimo Aculo, two leagues and a half from Arcoyozarco, on the road to Toluca, whither I proceeded, and relieved from prison Senores Garcia, Conde, Rol, and Merino. God guard your Excellency many years.

(To be continued.)